

Minutes, Delaware Health Fund Advisory Committee

Monday, October 1, 2012

Attendance:

Rita Landgraf, Chair

Senator Patricia Blevins

Senator David McBride

Dr. Charles Reinhardt

Representative Michael Barbieri

Representative Edward Osienski

Senator Bethany Hall-Long

Bettina Riveros

Absent:

Don Fulton

Dr. Gregory Bahtiarian

I. Welcome and Introductions

The meeting began at approximately 1:08 pm

II. Minutes

The minutes of the September 28th, 2012 meeting were approved with no changes.

III. Overview of Materials

Reviewed that there is expected to be \$27.4 million available for allocation in FY14 and thus a difference of \$17 million between what has been requested in applications and what will be available to spend.

2 new spreadsheets were presented. Scenario 1 shows the FY14 HFAC request at the FY13 funding level, by category breakout and with switch funds removed. Scenario 2 shows the FY14 HFAC request at the FY13 funding level or request level, whichever is lower, by category breakout and with switch funds removed.

IV. Discussions of Applications

DPAP: Debbie Gottschalk from DHSS confirmed that the reason the DPAP application was lower for FY14 than the FY13 budget allocation is because with Medicare Part D, fewer people are applying for DPAP for prescription assistance and as a result of the Affordable Care Act, the “donut” hole where prescriptions are not covered is closing, resulting in lower costs to assist the people who are still in the program.

Children & Families First: Leslie Newman, CEO provided the history of the Resource Mothers Program and the transition in Delaware to a continuum of evidence-based home visiting programs. Resource Mothers started when Delaware was ranked last among states for infant mortality and Governor Minner created a task force to study how to improve outcomes. In 2008 CFF received a federal grant to implement the Nurse Family Partnership, which is an evidence-based, nationally recognized model. Its positive outcomes have been documented in 3 random studies that included control groups. With the development of other evidence-based home visiting programs in Delaware, there are very few referrals to the Resource Mothers program. Delaware’s continuum of evidence-based home visiting programs has become a national model and Delaware is now 7th from the bottom in state rankings on infant mortality. In their funding applications since 2009, CFF has asked to use Health Funds for either Resource Mothers or the Nurse Family Partnership. This year, CFF has applied to use the funds only for the Nurse Family Partnership.

A motion was made and seconded (Blevins/McBride) that the CFF application is an existing program and eligible to be considered for funding in FY14. The motion passed unanimously.

It was noted that this action is consistent with how a request by AIDS Delaware was handled when that organization asked to change how Health Funds were used.

V. Procedures and Future Meetings

Members discussed Scenario 2, the possible use of the reserve fund, and what scenarios would be helpful to have at (and in advance of) the next meeting.

The discussion included the history of the reserve fund, it’s depletion during the current economic difficulties, that it has not been used incorrectly, moving workforce programs out of HFAC, and that the HFAC program currently supports more than it can afford to going forward.

A motion was made and seconded (Blevins/McBride) to ask applicants for FY15 funding to submit an application that reflects a 16% reduction to reflect the anticipated funds that will be available to allocation. The motion passed unanimously.

Members discussed the possibility of across the board cuts versus trying to be selective and past experiences with those approaches. Also discussed was any possible impact of the Affordable Care Act on decreased need for some programs.

Members asked for the following scenarios to consider at the next meeting:

Across the board cut to come in at budget;

Across the board cuts that exempt budgets under \$200,000;

Across the board cuts exempting programs that asked for less than they received; and
Removing workforce programs.

VI. Other Business

None

VII. Public Comment

Janet Teixeira from the Cancer Care Connection asked for clarification on what amount to use for any percentage reduction, amount awarded or the amount requested? HFAC members answered that that would need to be clarified once recommendation decisions were made. She also suggested allocating the reserve since history shows that JFC will do that anyway.

Cheryl Heiks asked to confirm what scenarios were being presented at the next meeting: starting with scenario 2, and then showing across the board cuts; exempting budgets under \$200,000, exempting workforce programs, exempting programs that asked for less than they received last year. And no switch funds in any of these.

VIII. Next Public Hearings:

November 9, 2012, 1:00 – 3:00 pm
Appoquinimink State Service Center
Large Conference Room
122 Silver Lake Road, Middletown, DE 19709

IX. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:17 pm.

